



# HF Happenings

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the week of 13 June 2016

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp).

## 3Y, Bouvet

(Press Release #1, dated 8 June - Bouvet Island Activation Planned)

Three proven and experienced DXpedition leaders and a large team of operators will activate the DXCC number #2 most wanted DXCC entity in late 2017 or early 2018. Ralph, KOIR, Bob, K4UEE, and Erling, LA6VM, have been working on this project since returning from Peter I (3Y0X) some 10 years ago.

We are making this announcement now, so that other DXpedition teams that may be considering Bouvet as a DXpedition target can re-direct their time and effort elsewhere.

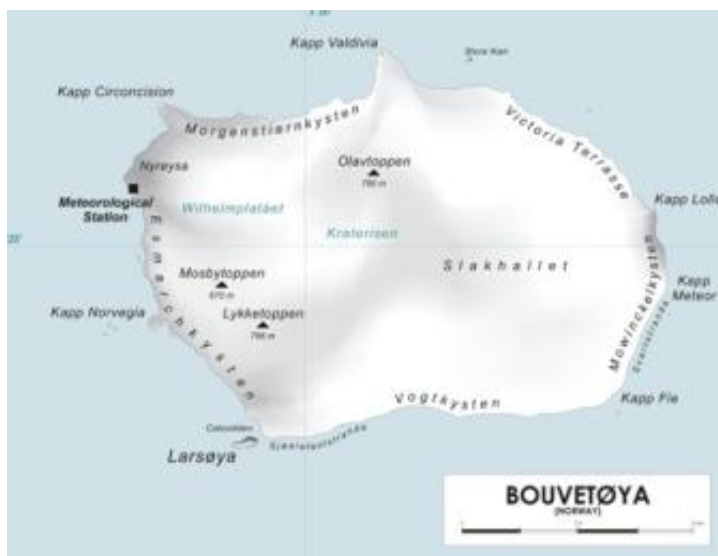
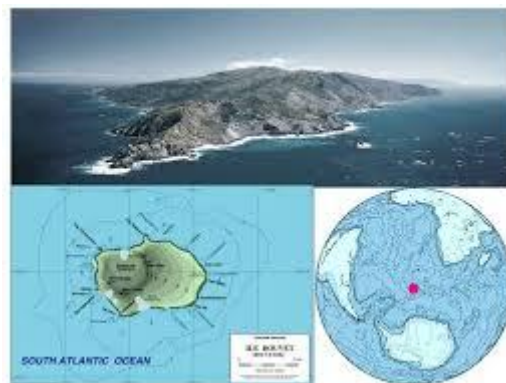
In summary, we have an agreement with Nigel Jolly to provide transportation, a helicopter, pilot and mechanic. We submitted a preliminary plan to the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI) some time ago and it has been accepted. A permit will be issued to land on Slakhallet (the huge glacier that covers the island).

We have a team committed, and the finances are doable. As per our funding model, we commit to paying one-half the expenses involved and we are asking the DX community to pay the other half of the expenses. This arrangement has never failed us or you, the DXer.

Experience summary: Leaders have eleven "DXpedition of the Year" awards, they have activated a dozen "top-ten" DXCC entities and amassed huge QSO totals at their most recent DXpeditions i.e. Desecheo 118 000 QSOs, HKONA 195 000 QSOs, FT5ZM, 170 000 QSOs, K1N 140 000 QSOs. Their experience in the Antarctic and Southern Oceans region is unparalleled. Heard Island, South Sandwich, South Georgia, Peter I, South Orkneys, Amsterdam Island, as well as numerous other operations from ALL seven continents.

This team and its leaders have collectively given the DX community over 4 000 000 DXpedition QSOs. Our website is under development and fundraising will begin in the months ahead. We are pleased that everything has finally come together so that we can activate this most difficult, dangerous and rare DXCC entity.

Your DXpedition leaders, Ralph, KOIR, Bob, K4UEE, and Erling, LA6VM



South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



Added note from Editor: Earlier in the week, the following two articles about Bouvet had shown-up before the above announcement was sent out:

\* Paul, N6PSE, posted to his blog on 5 June - "Bouvet, So Far Away"

<https://n6pse.wordpress.com/2016/06/05/bouvet-so-far-away>

\* Rich, KY6R, posted to his blog on 5 June - "How to Raise Funds for Bouvet, 3Y0/B, Update!"  
<https://ky6r.wordpress.com/2016/06/05/how-to-raise-funds-for-bouvet-3y0b>

## SARL joins the WRC-19 DTPS Working Group

On invitation of the Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services (DTPS), the South African Radio League has joined the National Preparatory Working Group for WRC-19. The first meeting was held on 9 June 2016 in Pretoria. The working group discussed all the WRC-19 agenda items. The League will be part of discussions on agenda item 1.1 and 1.7.

Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, will be the rapporteur for agenda item 1.1, which covers the consideration of an allocation of the frequency band 50 to 54 MHz to the amateur service in Region 1 in accordance with WRC-15 Resolution 658. Resolution 658 invites ITU-R to study spectrum needs in Region 1 for the amateur service in the frequency band 50 to 54 MHz taking into account sharing between the amateur service and the mobile, fixed, radiolocation and broadcasting services in order to ensure protection of these services.

Agenda item 1.7 covers the study of the spectrum needs for telemetry, tracking and command in the space operation service for non-GSO satellites with short duration missions and to assess the suitability of existing allocations to the space operation service and if necessary to consider new allocations, in accordance with WRC-15 Resolution 659. Some non-amateur satellites have used frequencies for telemetry, tracking and command in the bands 144 to 146 MHz and 435 to 438 MHz which are allocated to the amateur and amateur-satellite service and that such use is not in accordance with 1.56 and 1.57 of the radio regulations.

Telemetry, tracking and command functions for satellites should normally be provided within the

## June

- 4 – West Rand ARC Flea Market
- 5 - World Environmental Day
- 6 - Start of Ramadan
- 8 - World Oceans Day
- 12 - Hammies ZS6 Sprint; SARL Youth Net
- 16 - Youth Day
- 17 - World QRP Day
- 18 – Highway ARC 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday, ZS5HAM on the air; ARRL Kid's Day
- 19 Father's Day
- 20 Winter Solstice
- 21 closing date for July Radio ZS articles
- 23 to 27 - SARL Top Band QSO Party
- 24 to 26 - Ham Radio 2016, Friedrichshafen, Germany
- 30 - End of SARL Membership year

## July

- 1 – Start of SARL Membership year; Bloemfontein ARC 36<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 3 - ZS5 Sprint
- 6 - Eid-UL-Fitr
- 9 and 10 - IARU HF Championships
- 10 - SARL Youth Net
- 16 - Winter QRP Sprint
- 16 to 23 - Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp in Austria
- 18 - Schools open
- 24 - ZS2 Sprint
- 25 - Closing date for articles for the August Radio ZS
- 30 and 31 - Islands on the Air Contest

## August

- 7 - SARL HF Phone Contest
- 9 - SARL YL Sprint; National Women's day
- 13 and 14 - International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
- 14 - SARL Youth Net
- 21 - SARL HF Digital Contest
- 28 - SARL HF CW Contest

service in which the space station is operating. This generally is not happening. These satellites fall in the CubeSat range and are projects initiated by educational institutions. ICASA has been nominated as the lead group for Africa to study possible other frequency bands. In resolution 659, the 2 m and 70 cm bands were excluded as possible targets. The League will be supporting ICASA in preparing for this agenda item.

## Kosovo IARU Society Receives Visitors for the IARU HF Championship Weekend Z60A on the air from 6 to 11 July.

The 2016 IARU HF World Championship not only marks the very first entry of the Kosovo Amateur Radio Association (SHRAK) as a new HQ multiplier, but the week also represents multiple other valuables for Kosovar hams.

In a major outing, the SHRAK youth delegation headed by Driton Sadiku, Z61DX, with Elona Shatri, Z63ESC, Edona Sela, Z63ESB, and Blindon Krasniqi, Z63BKA, will travel to the IARU YOTA conference in Austria. Their selected team will meet their initial instructors Hans, PB2T, and Martti, OH2BH, as a kick-off for their first trip outside Kosovo. This outing received the sincere support of the Amateur Radio Society of Austria (ÖVSV), the Embassy of Austria in Kosovo, and the Yasme Foundation, Inc.

The majority of the 50+ new hams in Kosovo come from the ranks of the Technical University of Pristina, leading to another interesting link taking place on the professional front. The local university rarely receives visiting teachers, and thus Dr Kim Östman, OH6KZP, will give a lecture on the latest trends in RF microelectronics circuit development. The Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FIEK) at the Technical University of Pristina, and the Dean of the faculty, Prof Dr Enver Hamiti, host this session.

The team will also exercise by hosting a new Force-12 XR6 beam with a Yaesu G1000DXC rotator on top of the university building, in the heart of capital Pristina. These were kindly donated by the Chiltern UK DX Foundation and by Force-12 represented by Bill Hein, AA7XT.

On the weekend, the local folks team up with their visitors for the IARU Championship contest at multiple locations in and near Pristina. The visiting operating team includes Hans, PB2T, Kenneth, OZ1IKY, Pertti, OG2M, Kim, OH6KZP, Martti, OH2BH, Pekka, OH2TA, and Mario, S56A.

73, Vjollca Belegu-Caka, Z61VB, President of SHRAK

## DXCC News

The following operation has been approved for DXCC credit - EP2A, Iran - April 2016

## African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

The Gambia, C5. Koji, JM1CAX, is now active as C5NX from Banjul until 18 June. Activity is limited to his spare time (business trip) and has been mainly on 20 metres using CW only. He informs OPDX, "I am using K3, 100 w and a fishing rod wire antenna. All QSLs will be sent out via the Bureau as soon as I have returned to my home, ZS-land. Otherwise, QSL is via my home call, JM1CAX. Log will be posted to LoTW, but not ClubLog."

Angola, D2. Eddy, CT1CRS, is now active as D2XX from Luanda. The length of his stay is currently "undetermined" he informs. Activity so far has been on 17 metres SSB. However, Eddy,

states his station is a Yaesu FT-847 with 100 watts into four dipoles antennas 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 m). QSL via his home call sign.

## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Mauritius, 3B8. Robert, MORCX will be back on Mauritius Island (AF-049, Grid LG89rt) between 15 June and 14 July. He will be active as 3B8/MORCX on HF and 6 m (SSB and digital modes). QSL via EB7DX, LoTW and eQSL.



## Human-generated power

The US Army and Marines are looking into using human-generated power for the increasing technology carried by soldiers. By utilising knee joint motion, 10 to 12 W of power can be harvested. Perhaps Amateur Radio operators interested in portable or SOTA-type operations will also have this option in the future. <http://www.gizmag.com/wearable-battery-trial-us-army-marines/43576/>

## Word to the Wise

"BIC" - Butt in Chair. You cannot be making contest QSOs if you are not in front of the radio. Some amateurs are able to do 48 hours straight without a break. Nevertheless, it has considered more healthy to move around at periodic intervals. <http://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/exercise-at-your-desk>

## Getting Spotted by the Reverse Beacon Network

If you want to have big scores, you know it's "all about that rate," and you are going to have to run a frequency. It is important that you maintain a consistent stream of "assisted" callers to feed your rate and one of the ways to do that is to maximize your potential to be spotted. One way to get spotted is to be heard by the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) <http://www.reversebeacon.net/>. The RBN works by scanning the bands looking for stations transmitting "CQ-like" messages. To get spotted, it's key to have your CQ message be on that the RBN network will recognize <http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/cq-contest/2016-May/113709.html>. A message like "CQ TEST N9ADG" is one format that can work, with two caveats: All parts of the message should be sent at a consistent speed, with proper spacing between elements, and the message should be sent twice, although a recent test showed that I was able to get spotted by sending my call just once. If your favourite CQ message is not one that is compatible with RBN, you might want to have an additional RBN-friendly message that you send periodically. To see stations spotting you in real time, try the URL <http://www.reversebeacon.net/dxsd1/dxsd1.php?f=0&c=YOURCALL&t=dx>

## TAPR Raspberry Pi

TAPR has had a Raspberry Pi shield available for 20 metre WSPR use for a while. [http://tapr.org/kits\\_20M-wspr-pi.html](http://tapr.org/kits_20M-wspr-pi.html). This is a complete WSPR transmitter, including low-pass filter, on a single board. What you may not know is that the board is *not* confined to just WSPR modes. With suitable software, CW, SSB, SSTV and other modes can be used with the hardware <http://j.mp/tapr-grpi>.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 13 to 20 June 2016

### NAQCC CW Sprint

00:30 - 02:30 UTC 15 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 18 June 2016

Upload log at:

<http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at:

<http://naqcc.info/sprint201606.html>

### Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 15 June

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 17 June 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.perluma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Conests\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Conests_Rules.pdf)

### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 15 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 16 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 18 June 2016

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

### RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 15 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 22 June 2016

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)



Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 17 June

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 June 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rTTYns.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 17 June

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 June 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

All Asian DX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 18 June to 24:00 UTC 19 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Asian Single Op Single Band - high or low; Non-Asian Single Op Single Band - high; JA Single Op All Band - high, low, junior or silver; Asian Single Op All Band - high or low; Non-Asian Single Op All Band - high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and 2-digit age

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Asian Stations: DXCC entities once per band; non-Asian Stations: Asian prefixes once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 July 2016

E-mail logs to: [aacw@jarl.org](mailto:aacw@jarl.org)

Web-to-Cabrillo form:

[http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/aadxcw\\_cab3.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/aadxcw_cab3.php)

Mail logs to: JARL, All Asian DX Contest, CW, 170-8073, Japan

Find rules at:

[https://www.jarl.org/English/4\\_Library/A-4-3\\_Contests/2016AA\\_rule.htm](https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2016AA_rule.htm)

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest

12:00 UTC 18 June to 11:59 UTC 19 June

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high;

Single Op All Band 6-Hour; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: Ukraine: RST and 2-letter oblast; non-Ukraine: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; non-UR Stations: 10 points per QSO with Ukraine

Multipliers: UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each Ukraine oblast once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 July 2016

E-mail logs to: [urdxcrTTY@ukr.net](mailto:urdxcrTTY@ukr.net)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://urdxcr.org/rTTY/rules.php?english>

Stew Perry Topband Challenge

15:00 UTC 18 June to 15:00 UTC 19 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Max operating hours: 14 hours  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 5 - 100 watts; QRP: <5 watts  
Exchange: 4-Character grid square  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO plus 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station  
Multipliers: Low power: x 1,5; QRP: x 3  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power multiplier  
Submit logs by: 4 July 2016  
E-mail logs to: [tbd@kkn.net](mailto:tbd@kkn.net)  
Mail logs to: BARC, 15125 SE Bartell Rd, Bor-  
ing, OR 97009, USA  
Find rules at: <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

West Virginia QSO Party  
16:00 UTC 18 June to 02:00 UTC 19 June  
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - fixed - CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Multi - fixed - CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile - CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts CW, 10 watts phone  
Exchange: WV: RS(T) and county; non-WV: RS(T) and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band per mode  
QSO Points: 2 points per SSB QSO with WV mobile; 3 points per CW QSO with WV mobile; 1 point per SSB QSO with fixed; 2 points per CW QSO with fixed; Bonus: 100 points per QSO with W8WVA; WV Mobile Bonus: 100 points for each county activated  
Multipliers: WV Stations: Each WV county once per band; WV Stations: Each state, VE province, DXCC country once; non-WV Stations: Each WV county once  
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points  
Submit logs by: 6 July 2016  
E-mail logs to: [wvqlogs@gmail.com](mailto:wvqlogs@gmail.com)  
Mail logs to: Richard L. Dillon, K8VE, PO Box 1177, Buckhannon WV 26201, USA  
Find rules at: <http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/2016wvqsorules.html>

Kid's Day Contest  
18:00 - 23:59 UTC 18 June  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 2 m repeaters  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: name, age, QTH and favourite colour  
Submit logs by: 18 July 2016  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Mail logs to: (see rules)  
Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

Feld Hell Sprint  
20:00 - 21:59 UTC 18 June  
Mode: Feld Hell  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m  
Classes: (none)  
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: (see rules)  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Bonus Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (see rules)  
Score Calculation: (see rules)  
Submit logs by: 22 June 2016  
Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/field-day-sprint>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 20 June  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Band; All Band  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 26 June 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/>

## Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 22 June  
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 June  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 22 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 23 June  
NAQCC CW Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 23 June  
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 23 June  
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 24 June  
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 24 June  
His Majesty the King of Spain SSB Contest, 12:00 UTC 25 June to 12:00 UTC 26 June  
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, 12:00 UTC 25 June to 12:00 UTC 26 June  
ARRL Field Day, 18:00 UTC 25 June to 21:00 UTC 26 June

# VHF Happenings

## Two-metre beacon now operational in Cape Town

The Western Cape Repeater Working Group is pleased to announce that the ZS1TWO beacon on 144.435 CW is now active from central Cape Town. The beacon is located on a high rise building in the CBD, running 20 w into a five element horizontal Yagi pointing North-North East. Thanks to Mike, ZS1TAF, and Ryan, ZS1AJ, for the installation and donating the equipment.

Please send reports by e-mail to [zs1two@wcrwg.co.za](mailto:zs1two@wcrwg.co.za). For more VHF and repeater information in the Western Cape, visit [www.wcrwg.co.za](http://www.wcrwg.co.za)

## The ZS1/ZS2 VHF Repeater Network

The Western Cape Repeater Working Group (WCRWG), in collaboration with repeater coordinators from the Eastern Cape, will be recommissioning the VHF repeater link-up that starts in the Western Cape and travels along the South Coast to Port Elizabeth, East London and beyond. Currently, the repeaters at Brenton-on-Sea and Plettenberg Bay are non-functional. There are not many radio amateur users living in these areas that can maintain or sponsor the equipment and repairs needed there.

Hamnet Western Cape and the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society have already committed to sizeable contributions. The WCRWG would like to invite amateurs from the rest of the country who holiday in the Southern Cape or have holiday houses in the area and who might use the repeater system while on holiday, to make a donation to this project, to help raise a further R7 500 to recommission these repeaters. The bank account details are available on the website of the WCRWG at [www.wcrwg.co.za](http://www.wcrwg.co.za).



Any size donation will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged and ring-fenced for the project. Please use your call sign, followed by the word BRENTON in your bank account transfer and your donation will be allocated to the project accordingly. We thank you in anticipation.

The Group has also posted objects of the ZS1SIX 50,080 MHz FSK beacon and the ZS1TWO 144,435 MHz CW beacon on APRS and you can view them and their details in your own APRS software or at [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi). On our webpage, you will also find Google forms for reception reports of either of these objects and you are cordially invited to send your reports through. That website again, [www.wcrwg.co.za](http://www.wcrwg.co.za).

## Radio Frequency Ban in the Karoo to avoid QRM to the SKA

The Square Kilometre Array or SKA, an International science project located in South Africa and Australia, will be the world's most powerful radio telescope once completed, comprising 3 000 dishes. This is the greatest scientific project of the 21st Century, whereas the Large Hadron Collider in Europe was the greatest science project of the 20th Century.

After completion of the design phase of the SKA telescope last year, scientists mapped out the size and shape of the land required to protect the site from radio frequency interference. About 131 500 hectares of land surrounding the telescope's 176-dish core, which lies 80 km from Carnarvon, needs to be free from radio frequency interference. As a result, radio frequencies in the spectrum 100 MHz to 25,5 GHz could be banned from a large portion of the Karoo.

A possible ban of certain radio frequencies in the Karoo because of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project could see aircraft flying the Johannesburg to Cape Town route being redirected via Port Elizabeth, the Atlantic Ocean or over Upington. Anyone who contravenes these regulations could face a fine up to one million rand or even imprisonment. For more information, see the Government Gazette dated 23 November 2015.

The SKA radio frequency ban excludes aviation and safety services. SKA SA project director Rob Adam said the Astronomy Management Authority within the department had discussions with the CAA and ATNS regarding the matter. "The net result of these draft regulations is that commercial air traffic would not be affected. As low-level flight directly over the SKA could damage the sensitive SKA equipment, we will continue to engage with the CAA to ensure that this does not happen," he said.

## SDR Dongles

SDR "dongles" continue to be used as building blocks for experimentation and utility, such as receivers for the Reverse Beacon Network <http://www.dxmaps.com/funcube.html>. In a recent blog article, GOMX-3 <http://www.gizmag.com/esas-gomx-3-cubesat-goes-online/39903/> satellite data is decoded using Gnu Radio by some enthusiasts including some Amateur Radio operators <http://desteveez.net/2016/05/gomx-3-data-download/>. The GOMX-3 satellite's mission is to collect ADS-B transmissions over portions of the globe not covered by terrestrial receivers for retransmission to ground stations. For even more SDR inspiration, the RTL-SDR website <http://www.rtl-sdr.com/> provides a wide range of information.

## This Week's Contests

SMIRK Contest: 00:00 UTC 18 June to  
24:00 UTC 19 June  
Mode: CW, Phone  
Bands: 6 m Only

Classes: Single Op  
Exchange: SMIRK no (optional) and 4-  
character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with SMIRK member  
Multipliers: Each grid square  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 15 August 2016  
E-mail logs to: [mickpdm@hotmail.com](mailto:mickpdm@hotmail.com)  
Mail logs to: Paul McBride, W3FJ, 10 Longview Dr., Williamsport, PA 17701, USA  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.smirk.org/contest.html>

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest  
14:00 - 17:00 UTC 18 June (144) and 17:00 - 18:00 UTC 18 June (432)  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 144 MHz, 432 MHz  
Classes: Single Op  
Max operating hours: 3 hours: 144 MHz; 2 hours: 432 MHz  
Max power: A: 5 W; B: 5 - 50 W; C: >50 W  
Exchange: RST, "/", serial no, "/", power class, "/" and 6-character grid locator  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per km per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 4 July 2016  
E-mail logs to: [vhf-uhf@agcw.de](mailto:vhf-uhf@agcw.de)  
Mail logs to: Manfred Busch, DK7ZH, Ebachstr. 13, D-35716 Dietzhoelztal-Mandeln, Germany  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/vhf-uhf-contest>

IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest  
14:00 UTC 18 June to 14:00 UTC 19 June  
Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 6 m Only  
Classes: Single Op  
Exchange: RS(T), QSO no and locator  
QSO Points: 1 point per km  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 3 July 2016  
E-mail logs to: (see your national society rules)  
Mail logs to: (see your national society rules)  
Find rules at: [http://concours.r-e-f.org/reglements/actuels/reg\\_iaru50\\_fr\\_201303.pdf](http://concours.r-e-f.org/reglements/actuels/reg_iaru50_fr_201303.pdf)

WAB 50 MHz Phone  
09:00 UTC-15:00 UTC 19 June  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 6 m Only  
Classes: Single Op - fixed, mobile or portable; Multi-Op - fixed, mobile or portable; QRP; SWL - fixed, mobile or portable  
Max power: non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts  
Exchange: British Isles: RS, serial no and WAB square  
Other: RS and serial no and country  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (see rules)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 10 July 2016  
E-mail logs to: [g3xkt@worked-all-britain.org.uk](mailto:g3xkt@worked-all-britain.org.uk)  
Mail logs to: Tony Beardsley, G3XKT, 14 York Avenue, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 5HB, United Kingdom  
Find rules at:  
<http://wab.intermip.net/Contest%20Rules.php#OtherRules>

## Next Week's Contests

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter